

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application.

Claims 1-5, 7-15 and 20 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to set forth Compounds 1, 3, 4 and 5 disclosed in paragraphs 0024, 0026, 0027 and 0028 of the application.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Rejection under 35 USC §112, First Paragraph

Claims 1-5, 7-15 and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Official Action asserts that the amendments to claim 1 presented in the Amendment of November 14, 2008 represent new matter. However, these amendments have been removed, and claim 1 has been amended to be clearly and fully supported by the specification.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

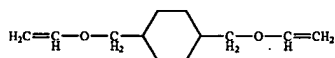
Rejections Under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-15 and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over CRANE et al. in view of

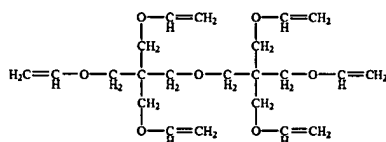
SEIICHI et al., and evidenced by SUZUKI et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention pertains to a vinyl ether curing composition that includes a polyfunctional vinyl ether compound, a polyhydric phenol compound and a flame retardant. As is evident from Compound Nos. 1 and 3-5 set forth in claim 1 (depicted below), the polyfunctional vinyl ether compound of the present invention is free from carbonyl and hydroxyl groups.

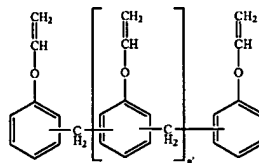
Compound No. 1:



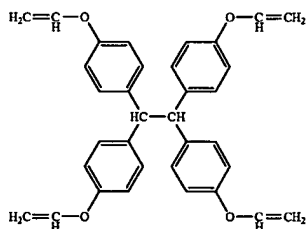
Compound No. 3:



Compound No. 4:



Compound No. 5:



CRANE et al. pertain to a sealing composition for a semiconductor that is an epoxy resin. CRANE et al. fail to disclose or infer the Compounds 1 and 3-5 set forth in claim 1 of the present invention.

What is disclosed in SEIICHI et al., as indicated by the Official Action, is a fire retardant epoxy resin curing composition containing a fire retardant represented by a formula corresponding to the formula (II) of the present.

However, in SEIICHI et al., the resin to which the fire retardant and polyhydric phenol are added is an epoxy resin, and not polyhydric vinyl ether as in the present invention.

SUZUKI et al. pertain to flip chip mounting. SUZUKI et al. fail to teach a polyhydric phenol compound or a polyfunctional vinyl ether compound.

In contrast, the present invention is a vinyl ether curing composition that includes a polyfunctional vinyl ether compound of formula 1, 3, 4 or 5, a polyhydric phenol compound and a flame retardant, containing 10 to 30 parts by weight of a phosphorus-based flame retardant as the flame retardant per 100 parts by weight of the total of the polyfunctional vinyl ether compound and the polyhydric phenol compound.

One of ordinary skill and creativity would fail to produce a claimed embodiment of the present invention from a knowledge of any combination of CRANE et al., SEIICHI et al., and SUZUKI et al, and a *prima facie* case of unpatentability has thus not been made.

Further, as evident from the description at paragraphs 0007 and 0020 of the present specification, the vinyl ether curing composition of the present invention can provide a cured

product with a low dielectric constant, which can never be attained by a cured product composed mainly of an epoxy compound and a curing agent for the epoxy. This represents an unexpected result over the applied art references that would fully rebut any unpatentability that could be alleged.

These rejections are believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statements filed December 15, 2005, March 14, 2006, and September 20, 2006 and for making initialed PTO-1449 Forms of record in the application.

Prior art of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

The objections and rejections are believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot and that no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Robert E. Goozner/

Robert E. Goozner, Reg. No. 42,593
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

REG/lrs